

**IN THE CLAIMS:**

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1           1. (Currently Amended) A method for enhancing the  
2 antimicrobial effectiveness of an antibiotic comprising the step of combining the  
3 antibiotic with at least 1% by weight citric acid and or salts of citric acid,  
4 wherein an effective antimicrobial combination consists essentially of the  
5 antibiotic and the citric acid and/or salts of citric acid.

Claims 2-24 (Cancelled).

1           25. (Currently Amended) A topical antimicrobial composition  
2 comprising consisting essentially of an antibiotic combined with at least 1% by  
3 weight citric acid and or salts of citric acid.

1           26. (Previously Presented) The process according to Claim 1,  
2 wherein the antibiotic is selected from the group consisting of vancomycin and  
3 ampicillin.

1           27. (Previously Presented) The topical antimicrobial according  
2 to Claim 25, wherein the antibiotic is selected from the group consisting of  
3 vancomycin and ampicillin.

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